

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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P R 122021Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8060
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1413

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, HA
SUBJ: HAITIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. PORT AU PRINCE 1270, B. PORT AU PRINCE A-23, APRIL 10, 1978

1. EMBASSY IS NOW CONVINCED THAT HAITIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A GENUINELY INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION. CONVERSATIONS AND SOUNDINGS SINCE REFERENCED MESSAGES WERE PREPARED HAVE DISPELLED DOUBTS THAT LEAGUE MIGHT IN SOME WAY BE A FRONT FOR GOVERNMENT INTERESTS. PUBLIC OPINION NOW GENERALLY BELIEVES THE LEAGUE TO BE INDEPENDENT DESPITE THE EARLY EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT IT BY PUBLISHING THE NEWS OF ITS FORMATION IN THE OFFICIAL DAILY.

2. WE BELIEVE THE LEAGUE CAN CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE ABOANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI BOTH AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND IN FURTHERING OUR OWN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, LEAGUE PRESIDENT DUPLESSY IMPLIES THAT THE LEAGUE'S GOAL OF REESTABLISHING THE RULE OF LAW IN HAITI CANNOT BE FULLY REALIZED WITHOUT REPLACING THE
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PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THUS DESPITE ITS DECLARATION THAT IT IS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY THE LEAGUE DOES APPEAR TO HAVE POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS. IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE LEAGUE, THEREFORE, WE PLAN SCRUPULOUSLY TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ITS HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVES AND ITS POLITICAL ONES.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREGOING I INTEND TO RESPOND BY

THE END OF THIS WEEK TO MR. DUPLESSY IN THE FOLLOWING VEIN
UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES ANY OBJECTION: "I GREATLY
APPRECIATE YOUR CALL ON ME ON MONDAY OF THIS WEEK TO EXPLAIN
IN DETAIL THE GOALS OF 'THE HAITIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS'
ABOUT WHICH YOU WROTE ME IN YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 29, 1978.
AS YOU REQUESTED I HAVE FORWARDED THE LETTER YOU ENCLOSED
FOR AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
WHERE I AM SURE IT WILL RECEIVE HIS MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO YOU AND THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF PERSONAL WISHES, AS WELL AS THOSE OF
THE GOVERNMENT I REPRESENT, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS NEW
INITIATIVE. I SINCERELY HOPE THE LEAGUE WILL BE ABLE TO CON-
TRIBUTE TO THE REALIZATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE OF
GOOD WILL EVERYWHERE FOR A WORLD IN WHICH THE FULL DIGNITY OF
EACH INDIVIDUAL IS GUARANTEED AND IN WHICH JUST LAWS ARE
FAIRLY APPLIED FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE."

4. USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG. I ENDORSE DUPLESSY'S
REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM YOU. I THINK IT
WOULD GIVE THE ORGANIZATION AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE OF PROTEC-
TION. IN VIEW OF THE UNSPOKEN POLITICAL GOALS OF THE LEAGUE,
HOWEVER, I THINK THE MOST USEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WOULD BE ONE
THAT ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE GENERAL GOALS OF THE LEAGUE
RATHER THAN ONE THAT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSES IT AS AN ORGANIZA-
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Message Attributes

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